

C. H. S.

BANDWAGON

SEPTEMBER ISSUE, 1952

15c



CIRCUS BUSCH

(See story on page 3)

— The Circusiana Magazine —

C. H. S.

Bandwagon

P. O. Box 235
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SEPTEMBER ISSUE, 1952

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The Editor Says

There's a sadness in the air, the leaves are falling, and the frost is heavy in the mornings. The circuses are fast going South or are already in the barn, and for most of us Midwesterners the circus season is over until April. However, we keep memories warm with our correspondence with friends we have met on the lot and with others whom we hope to meet some day.

Walter Pietschmann has again come through with some very fine photos of the convention. Even if late they will certainly bring back some memories for those of us who were in Baraboo and Richland Center. Walter, besides being our able and capable treasurer, is a member of the Greater Detroit Camera Club and also a member of The Photographic Society of America.

Do any of you know the present address of C. L. Brown, formerly band master for Cole Bros? We have also had mail returned from Don Cavilla. Any information will be appreciated.

Hagenbeck Zoo opened two seasons in St. Louis. 1905 and 1906. Some of the members were Heiner Boger, John Dudack, Presky, Charles Judge who had the sea lions, and Rubin Castine.

Dillenberg Writes From Berlin

Berlin-Tegel 26th, August 1952

After 11 weeks of enormous success in Berlin the circus Busch left the city. More than 300,000 people saw the performances and it has to be said Paula Busch knew to present a programme equal to the greatest circuses. The photo on cover, shows Mr. Dillenberg presenting a souvenir to Paula Busch and the thanks of the Berlin spectators. It is rather remarkable neither Krone nor Sarrasani stood such a long time in Berlin.

In the course of September or at the beginning of October we are awaiting Grock and his circus.

As to the zone sovietic, the 3 great circuses Jakob Busch, Aeros, and Barley are completely expropriated and in 1953 the 28 smaller circuses will also be transferred under the controle of the state.

The circuses traveling in the western part of Germany are doing good business this summer.

Best Wishes,

FRITZ DILLENBERG

Murray Guy, C. H. S. member, played Baraboo, Wisc., in 1913, with the Wilson Bros. Wild West Circus doing rifle shooting from the back of a running horse. Wild Bill and Cherokee Red were Riders and Mexican Joe did roping and horse catching. Show carried 24 horses, three buffalos, and three long horned steers. With five Indians, and a stage coach they used numbers called the Race for the Bride, Settlers raided by the Indians, Buffalo Hunt, Roping of the Long Horn, Attack of the Stage Coach by Indians, Hanging of the Horse Thief. These all featured Murray (Long Hair) Guy, doing America's finest shooting of clay balls in the air from horse back.

If you are interested in color filmstrips on the circus, based on Cecil B. DeMille's "The Greatest Show on Earth," write to Audio-Visual Guide, 1630 Springfield Ave., Maplewood, New Jersey. The filmstrip is \$7.50. They also have copies of the 17 x 11 sheet of Miniature stills for 10c a copy.



Circus Historical Society members, Sauk County Circus Band, Rev. Father Bauhs at the grave of Jimmy Whalen, July 11, 1952

English Circus Cannon Act Mishap

Sent in by C. W. Maloney

Reprinted from Cambridge Daily News, March 14, 1952

Over 4,000 people rose suddenly to their feet when the safety net gave way during one of the acts at Chipperfield's Circus during the second house at night.

It was near the end of the show when the only double cannon act in this country was taking place. The two performers, Luis Raluys and Juanita Bersunces, had entered the cannon and been shot into the air. The large audience watched them as they fell towards the safety net and then suddenly it happened. The net gave way at one of the corner posts and they hit the ground. Mr. Raluys appeared to be shaken, but otherwise unhurt. Miss Bersunces' face was seen to screw up with pain and she was carried out by four of the attendants.

On inquiry at the Circus today one of the officials said that neither performer was seriously injured, although Miss Bersunces sprained her ankle.

The official explained that there are six poles supporting the safety net. It was one of these that gave way, which meant that the net took the performers on the first landing, but dropped them on the second bounce.

As there was no serious injury to either performer the act will go on as usual tonight.

Mighty Haag Shows

From Charles E. Duble, Associate Editor, *Bandwagon*

One of the widely known and highly respected circus owners of our time was ERNEST HAAG. For almost 42 years his circus, The MIGHTY HAAG SHOWS toured the country, its name a household word in some sections. The grand old man of the circus world passed on in February, 1935. Few if any showmen had a more humble beginning than Mr. Haag. Readers of *The Bandwagon* I am sure will enjoy his story as told to one of the staff of *The Billboard*, while on a visit in Cincinnati some years prior to 1935. His account follows:

It was at the age of 12 that he along with several other boys, played hookey from school and fearing that they might get a thrashing from their dads, hopped in a box car headed for wherever it might go. After riding awhile all the boys except Haag became afraid, left the box car and hiked back to Plymouth, Indiana, their home town. Haag kept riding and riding until he found himself in Philadelphia, later going to New York City and other points in the East.

* * *

The next thing for Haag to do was to try and make a living, so he obtained a shoe-shining outfit (an old one of pocket size) and earned a few nickels, at the same time getting a few more by selling newspapers. This he continued to do until he was about 16. In his home town he was quite a musician for his age; in fact had led a local orchestra, and as he had circus inclinations his eyes were next turned in that direction.

His first show engagement was as alto player with T. Cooney, band leader with "Windy Smith", who had a show known as the Robinson Two-Car Show which operated for a season or two. After leaving there Haag made fairs, picnics, and old soldiers reunions selling juice. With each drink he gave a prize (spend a nickel and get a prize, was his

spiel) and he believed he was the originator of that plan. For four or five years he did that kind of work—until he saved about \$1,000. His next venture was a minstrel show, which proved a failure and Haag went back to box car traveling, and later again selling juice—for a few years.

* * *

Then his ambition to become a 'circus feller' reappeared. After saving a little more money selling juice he bought a small tent and a few ropes for \$20 from an old side show man by the name of Squire Bowman and used it for a side show on fairgrounds. While along the Red river one day at Shreveport, La., he saw a fisherman with a flat boat and it gave him an idea. The fisherman was approached, a price of \$20 offered for the boat and Haag was soon the owner. He then managed to rig up a few seats and obtained a bass drum only to learn that performers were needed to put on a performance. He scouted around until he picked up a performer named Jim Alberta, whose specialty was blackface. As Haag was about to float down the Red river, Ed Conklin a juggler happened along and hailed Haag who immediately joined him out. So down the river they went stopping at different sand bars, where they gave what they termed a circus. The main feature of the show was Haag's prize with each drink of lemonade. From the Red river they went on the Catawba, then down the Bayou Teche, which emptied into the bay. The "circus" called merely "The Big Show" moved downstream because there was no transportation to pay. Upon reaching the bay "The Big Show" was unloaded and placed on a two-wheel cane cart drawn by three mules abreast. With this cane cart Haag made the lower Red river, and the French country.

* * *

It was after this cane cart tour that he bought his first team of horses and wagon (a common old farm wagon, perhaps on Old Hickory). The circus was next transported all the way to Kansas—a one wagon show so to speak. From then on Haag bought wagon after wagon and added to his baggage stock.

(Continued on page 6)



**C. H. S. Members with the Kelly-Miller Circus,
Richland Center, Wisconsin, July 12, 1952**

Included in the picture are Dr. Conley, Bette Leonard, George Chindahl, Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Gorrow, Dick Conover, Melvin Olsen, Larry and Jerry Olsen, two Kelly-Miller clowns, Barbara Jean Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Linden, John Heidl, Howard Gusler, Cliff Cowen, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Goldquist, Fred Van Epps, Walter Scholl, Sverre Braathen, "Dad White."

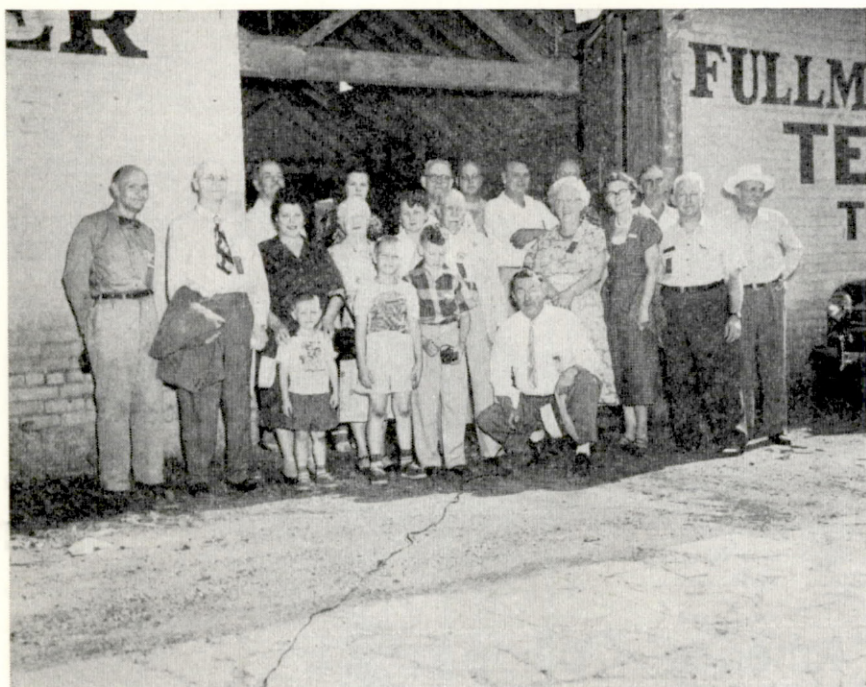
MIGHTY HAAG SHOWS (Cont'd from page 5)

It was later that he used the title, Haag's Mighty Shows, and then later Mighty Haag Shows. In the spring of 1909 he put the show on rails and traveled that way to the close of the season 1914, touring much of Eastern Canada during the seasons and the Eastern and Southern states. When Haag had it on wagons the very first time he confined his territory to west of the Mississippi river. After closing the railroad show and going back to wagons, later trucks, he played East of the Mississippi which was the territory as long as the show continued. He gave William R. Kellogg a great deal of the credit for the early success and growth of the Haag show. There were many

others who received their schooling under the Haag banner.

Ernest Haag considered himself very fortunate in that he was always able to do things without first having to borrow money. He was the owner of considerable real estate at Shreveport, La., where he had a beautiful home, and he also had a home at Marianna, Fla., not to mention other properties in that state as well as in Oklahoma. For 18 years he was a director of Shreveport's largest bank, the Commercial National.

Haag's mission in this world, to use his own words, was to, "make everybody feel good."



Taken in front of the old Ringling Bull Barn at Baraboo, Wisconsin. In the picture: Bill Kasiska, Faye Reed, Frank Goldquist, Bette Leonard, Jerry Olsen, Anna Goldquist, Mabel Reed, Larry Olsen, Mat Wixom, Frances Olsen, Charles Hill, "Dad White, Melvin Olsen, Ed Binner, Walter Pietschmann, Leona Wixom, Bob King, Agnes King, Murray Guy, Walter Scholl, Fred Leonard.

NEW MEMBERS

Steve Seipp, No. 524
919 Garden Street
Park Ridge, Illinois

Virge Campbell, No. 525
Box 115
Fairbury, Nebraska

Troy Scruggs, No. 526
Box 9148
Tampa 4, Florida

The late Allen Wescott suggested that we make Virge Campbell, the last of the Campbell Bros., an honorary member. In memory of Allen, we have done this.

*Would Like to Correspond With Circus
Scrapbook Fans*

JAMES W. KELLEY, CHS 113
MILL ROAD, NORTH HAVEN, CONN.



Ann King placing a wreath on a Ringling Grave, Baraboo, Wisc.

"America" Calliope

Sent in by Charles P. Fox, No. 161

The "America" calliope formerly owned by Cole Bros. Circus has been purchased by the Cleaver-Brooks Company of Milwaukee. This wagon will now be used for advertising purposes. The wagon has been completely renovated; however, nothing has been done to alter its outside appearance.

Its first use will be at the Wisconsin State Fair where it will be up on a platform in front of the manufacturers' building, and there will be regular concerts played on this old vehicle.

This company has been interested in obtaining a real steam calliope for years and when I heard about it early this year, I told Mr. Fred Hainer, Vice President of the company, of the availability of the "America" calliope.

Together we went to Peru and he purchased this wagon on the spot. At the same time we acquired from the Cole Bros. Circus the two fairy tale floats—the "Old Woman In The Shoe" and "Mother Goose". All three of these were shipped to Milwaukee on a truck. The "Mother Goose" float is now residing in my backyard; while the "Old Woman In The Shoe" float was purchased by Mr. Roland K. Wilde of Milwaukee, another C.H.S. fan.

With Cole Bros. disposing of all of their equipment, I believe that these three wagons, which have no further use for any other of the small truck circuses in the country, have been saved from the graveyard.

They are all gems, as you know. The little floats being over 60 years old and the "America" wagon being over 50 years old.

Of the entire series of floats that were built for Barnum & Bailey back in 1890, only three are in existence today. The Cinderella float is the third one, now owned by Terrel Jacobs.

Circus Rider Maneuvers Horse to Save Toddler at Show Here

Sent in by Geo. Perkins

Portland, Maine, June 10, 1952

It was circus day here Monday.

The sweltering temperatures wilted many a starched collar, but not the enthusiasm of some 10,000 fans.

Although the planned thrills went off on schedule, a spectacular bit of side play added to them.

The principals were 18-month-old Charles Jewett and Ann Sutton, an honest-to-goodness cowgirl from Casper, Wyo.

It happened at the afternoon performance of the King Brothers-Cristiani show.

Leading Line

The cowgirl, riding her pinto, Jim, was leading the Wild West line around the big top.

The Jewett boy got away from his daddy, Elton Jewett of Gorham, and toddled into the path of the oncoming pinto.

Miss Sutton, a several-time champion lady bronc rider at Madison Square Garden, pulled the horse to one side, in the nick of time, making him rear high into the air.

The boy was lucky. The horse's hoof came down inches from his head, just brushing the lad's arm.

A quick trip to Maine General Hospital where x-rays were taken, showed the boy wasn't injured. He was discharged.

Col. Harry Thomas, big top announcer, said Miss Sutton "stopped that horse on a dime."

Going Fast

The red haired champ was modest about her role.

She recalled the horse was going "pretty fast"—about 25 miles an hour according to eyewitnesses. "The youngster just toddled out into the path of the horse."

She said she turned the horse quickly to one side "and he went up. It was the narrowest escape I've ever had."

And it happened on her birthday, too. Which one? She wouldn't say. "But I'll tell you this," she said, "I have a son who's 20 and goes to Northwestern University."

It was more than an active day for the King Circus, according to Floyd King, associate owner.

He was enthusiastic about the circus parade Monday morning. "There were thousands of people on the streets of Portland."

(Continued on page 10)

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Another scene at the grave of Jimmy Whalen

CIRCUS RIDER MANEUVERS HORSE (Cont'd from page 9)

Last Street Parade

The King show has the only street parade in the Country. King feels the great interest is shown because "for two generations the kids haven't seen anything like it."

It's been 20 years or more since Portland has had a circus parade.

Both afternoon and evening performances were filled. Officials had to stop selling tickets at both shows.

And those who did get inside saw some of the main line performers in the show business.

Featured was the Cristiani Family, with comedian Lucio Cristiani, awe-inspiring bareback riders.

Hugo Zacchini, human cannon ball, got his share of the applause after being shot from the mouth of a cannon the length of the big top.

It wasn't long after the last act the show was being bundled up and ready to move in its 96 motor vehicles to Bath, where it plays twice today.

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Founded in 1939

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Other circus stories will follow.

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the Spring, 1907, in Peru, at the
Boodie Wagon Works with Uncle
Ben Wallace, Mgr.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Audibert,
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nounce the arrival of a son, Sep-
tember 2, 1952.

IT IS NOT TOO EARLY
TO SEND IN YOUR
DOLLAR FOR

Greetings

IN THE

Christmas

Issue

OF THE

BANDWAGON

ISSUED DECEMBER 10

In the last issue of the Band-
wagon, there was an article about
the 1952 Convention in Baraboo.
At the business meeting discus-
sions were held regarding the
financial condition of the organ-
ization. We inadvertently for-
got to say that the Treasurer
reported \$412.17 in the treasury.

NOTICE

Did you—any of you—send money to Frances Templeton? The Bandwagon ran his ad on the back page of the February and March issues, in which he offered for sale a series of books, having to do with the Circus. It has come to our attention that some members sent him money for his books and have not received any response from him, although he has cashed their checks or money orders.

This matter has caused the Editor and the Secretary no end of worry, but we offer no excuses for having carried the ad. It came to us through the efforts of one of our members; we accepted it in good faith—as we have other advertising that has been sent to us.

We have turned this matter over to the Post Office Department for investigation. All the letters that we have received in the matter have been sent in to Washington. NOW—if you sent Templeton any money and have not written to complain to us about it—we the Editor and Secretary will appreciate it very much if you will write a letter to: K. M. Foust, Post Office Inspector, Box 1820, Washington, D.C., and tell him the facts in your case. This will help in the investigation, and may in the end allow you to have your money returned to you.